(b) whether it is also a fact that Gujarat is having considerable share in passengers and goods traffic in the Western Railways; and

(c) if so, the reasons for not shifting the Headquarters of Western Railway to Ahmedabad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS ( SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. Gujarat is having considerable share in Passenger and Goods traffic in Western Railways.

(c) The location of the Headquarters of a Railway is decided on the basis of operational and administrative requirements consistent with the needs of economy and efficiency and not on regional considerations. In view of these, there is no need for shifting the Headquarters of Western Railway to Ahmedabad.

**Connecting Chennai Central with Egmore Railway Station through Broad Gauge Line**

1146. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to connect Chennai Central railway station and Egmore Railway Station through a broad gauge line;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the stage at which the proposal stands now; and

(c) the time by which the project is likely to be completed and the steps proposed to be taken by Government for the expeditious completion of this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS ( SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposal has been approved by Railway Board on 08.04.2003. The technical feasibility and commercial viability of the project with alternative to this proposal was entrusted to Rail India Technical & Economic Services (RITES) who have completed the study and submitted the report with alternative proposals.

(c) Not, yet decided.